CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1.   A method for accessing Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) trace information generated by an OTDR device, comprising:

receiving an OTDR trace file in its native format, wherein the OTDR trace file includes OTDR information;

storing the OTDR trace file on one or more computer-readable media;

receiving a request to present the OTDR information in a browser;

identifying a viewer that can render the OTDR information in the browser; and

communicating the OTDR information to the browser.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the OTDR information includes data related to diagnosing communications problems associated with an optical-transmission route.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the data includes information related to a fiber route, fiber span, and/or fiber cable.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein storing the OTDR trace file includes storing the trace file in its native format.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the native format includes a file format having at least one of the following extensions: .SOR, .PSF, .WFM, and .CFF.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the browser includes a computer-program product that translates digital bits into viewable data objects pursuant to a prescribed protocol, wherein the prescribed protocol includes one or more of the following: a variant of the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), a markup language, a scripting language, and/or a transfer protocol.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein identifying the viewer includes enabling the browser to determine a plug-in that can present the OTDR information.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the plug-in includes a computer-program product that adds functionality to a browser.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein communicating the OTDR information to the browser includes enabling the browser to render the OTDR information.

10. One or more computer-readable media having computer-useable instructions embodied thereon to perform the method of claim 9.

11. A method for providing Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) trace information generated by an OTDR device, comprising:

obtaining an OTDR trace file having a native format, wherein the OTDR trace file includes OTDR information; and

storing the OTDR trace file in its native format on one or more computer-readable media for subsequent data retrieval.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the OTDR information includes data related to diagnosing communications problems associated with a communications link.

13.   The method of claim 12, wherein the data includes information related to a fiber route, fiber span, and/or fiber cable.

14.   The method of claim 11, wherein the native format includes a file format having at least one of the following extensions: .SOR, .PSF, .WFM, and .CFF.

15.   One or more computer-readable media having computer-useable instructions embodied thereon for performing a method of presenting Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) information, the method comprising:

        receiving an OTDR trace file, wherein the OTDR trace file contains fiber-route data generated from an OTDR device;

        embodying the OTDR trace file in its native format in one or more storage media;

        receiving a request to present in a browser the fiber-route data;

        identifying a file viewer that can render the fiber-route data from the native OTDR trace file; and

        presenting the one or more portions of the fiber-route data in the browser.

16.   The media of claim 15, wherein the OTDR device is at least one of:

        a communications-equipment-testing device; and

        a problem-diagnosis device including a fiber-fault-location device.

17.   The media of claim 15, wherein fiber-route data includes data related to one or more optical-fiber communications routes, spans, and/or cables.

18. The media of claim 17, wherein the data includes wavelength measurements.

19. The media of claim 17, wherein the OTDR trace file native format is the format generated by the OTDR device.

20. The media of claim 19, wherein the format generated by the OTDR device includes one of the following file types: .SOR, .PSF, .WFM, and .CFF.

21. The media of claim 18, wherein the file viewer is a computer-program product that adds functionality to the browser.

22. A system for presenting Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) information comprising:

a user interface that facilitates uploading an OTDR trace file in its native format;

a storage device coupled to the user interface for receiving the trace file; and

a viewer coupled to the storage device for rendering data within the OTDR trace file in a browser.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the user interface includes a plurality of screens to upload data, wherein the data is related to one or more selections from the following: routes, fibers, spans, power-measurement data fiber counts; analysis of splices, connectors and fiber attenuation; bidirectional measurement analysis data such as two-way-averaging and bending detection measurements; scan trace and pass/fail test data; multiple traces; refractive indices; back-scatter coefficients; and/or resplicing and repair data.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the user interface includes a first screen for navigating to a plurality of OTDR functions.

25. The system of claim 24, where the plurality of OTDR functions is at least one of:

managing one or more communications routes;

managing one or more communications spans;

managing one or more communications cables;

managing one or more power attributes; and

managing one or more line splices.

26. The system of claim 23, wherein the OTDR trace file native format is a format generated by an OTDR device.

27. The media of claim 26, wherein the format generated by the OTDR device includes one of the following file types: .SOR, .PSF, .WFM, and .CFF.

28. A method for receiving Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) data generated by an OTDR device, comprising:

receiving a request to present the OTDR data from an OTDR file stored in

its native format on one or more computer-readable media;

identifying a viewer that can render the OTDR information in the OTDR

data; and

communicating the OTDR information to a user interface using the

viewer.

29.   The method of claim 28, wherein receiving a request to print the OTDR

includes receiving a request to present the OTDR data in a browser.

30.   The method of claim 29, wherein the viewer is a browser plug-in.

31.   The method of claim 30, where the OTDR data is data related to one or

more of the following: routes, fibers, spans, power-measurement data fiber counts; analysis of

splices, connectors and fiber attenuation; bidirectional measurement analysis data such as two-

way-averaging and bending detection measurements; scan trace and pass/fail test data; multiple

traces; refractive indices; back-scatter coefficients; and/or resplicing and repair data.